

## **Michigan State Fair Youth Livestock Auction**

In 1996 a new effort was set forth to establish the Michigan State Fair Youth Livestock Auction as one of the highest quality and grossing state fair auctions. With bid spotting assistance from Governor Jon Engler and Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus, the one million dollar mark for gross sales since 1996 was easily surpassed in this year's auction which grossed \$154,800. In appreciation of the very generous and loyal support from Michigan individuals and companies, Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus presented to Meijer Inc., Kroger Company and Spartan Stores the Governor's Gold Banner Award for contributions in excess of \$100,000 and the Governor's Loyal Buyer Awards to Binson Hospital Supplies, Corn Belt Beef Veal and Lamb, Greenstone Farm Credit Services, Kowalski Sausage Company, Meijers, Inc., Michigan Department of Agriculture Employees, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Mid American Gunite, Wade Shows, and Wolverine Packing for participating in at least six of the past seven auctions..

Prior successes of the livestock auction have dramatically increased youth participation at the Michigan State Fair. This year, there were more market steers, lambs and hogs shown than ever recorded before, and over 200 youth competed in skill-a-thon, events included a livestock quiz, showmanship and judging.

In addition, previous successes have also led to the creation of the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF). In 2002 (MYLSF's third year of existence), the scholarship fund granted six \$1,000 scholarships to Jacob AcMoody of Tekonsha, Jessica Hutchinson of Onodaga, Lisa Scramlin of Holly, Bryce Slavik of Ashley, Renee Thelen of Ann Arbor, and Susan VanderKolk of Dorr. The MYLSF also granted \$21,000 in educational awards to more than 110 youth livestock exhibitors in the skill-a-thon competition. Since 2000 the MYLSF has granted a total of \$69,000 in educational awards and scholarships. Overall, the livestock auction raised over \$42,000 for the scholarship fund through the implementation of a sales cap, and the sale of the best of category wines, champion cheese, milk and butter.

The 2002 auction was kicked off after the annual Governor's Luncheon on the fairgrounds. Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus and Wyant served as floor "spotters" during the auction.

Purchasers and sale prices of the top animals included:

Grand Champion market steer, exhibited by Brent Dickinson of Montgomery, purchased by the Packerland Packing for \$35,000.

Grand Champion market hog, exhibited by Bailey Wyant of Cassopolis, purchased by Meijer, Inc., for \$21,000.

Grand Champion market lamb, exhibited by David Williams of Cassopolis, purchased by Spartan Stores, Inc., for \$15,000.

Reserve Grand Champion market steer, exhibited by Kyle Schrader of Tekonsha, purchased by the Kroger Co. for \$5,500.

Reserve Grand Champion market hog, exhibited by Stacey Reaume of Newport, purchased by Spartan Stores, Inc. for \$6,000.

Reserve Grand Champion market lamb, exhibited by Matt Gordeneer of Vermontville, purchased by the Kroger Co. for \$5,000.

Grand Champion pair of market steers, exhibited by Michelle Dickinson of Montgomery, purchased by the Packerland Packing for \$9,000.

Grand Champion pair of market hogs, exhibited by Taylor Copes of New Lothrop, purchased by the Kowalski Sausage Co. for \$8,000.

Grand Champion pair of market lambs, exhibited by Kyle Schrader of Tekonsha, purchased by Wolverine Packing for \$3,500.

Reserve Grand Champion pair of market steers, exhibited by Bryce Slavik of Ashley, purchased by Binson Hospital Supplies, Inc. for \$6,000.

Reserve Grand Champion pair of market hogs, exhibited by Doug Albright of Coldwater, purchased by Koegel Meats for \$4,500.

Reserve Grand Champion pair of market lambs, exhibited by Jacob Patterson of Lapeer, purchased by the Michigan Farm Bureau, for \$4,000.

Also auctioned were the State Fair champion wines, butter, milk and cheese. The Best of Category Speciality Wine sold for \$2,800 to Wade Shows, the Best of Category White Wine sold for \$2,000 to Al Long Ford; while the Best of Category Sparkling and Red Wines were sold to Binson Hospital Supplies for \$500 and \$700, respectively. Standard Federal purchased the Grand Champion Butter for \$2,200, Farm Credit Services purchased the Grand champion Milk for \$2,200 and the Grand Champion Cheese sold for \$2,500 to Corn Belt Beef, Veal, and Lamb.

MDA employees, participating in their seventh auction, purchase a “spotlight” market steer exhibited by Chris Arbuckle of Concord for \$1,600 and a “spotlight” market lamb exhibited by Bailey Martin of Sturgis for \$600. Processing proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank Council of Michigan.